

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

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SAMUEL NATHANIEL BEASLEY, IV, v. BRIAN WILLIAMS, et al.,	Case No. 2:16-cv-01790-JCM-CWH Petitioner, Respondents.	ORDER
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14 This closed *pro se* habeas matter is before the court on petitioner Samuel
15 Nathan Beasley IV's motion for reconsideration of the dismissal of the petition (ECF No.
16 8).

17 Where a ruling has resulted in final judgment or order, a motion for
18 reconsideration may be construed either as a motion to alter or amend judgment
19 pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 59(e), or as a motion for relief from
20 judgment pursuant to Federal Rule 60(b). *School Dist. No. 1J Multnomah County v.*
21 *AC&S, Inc.*, 5 F.3d 1255, 1262 (9th Cir. 1993), cert. denied 512 U.S. 1236 (1994).

Under Fed. R. Civ. P. 60(b) the court may relieve a party from a final judgment or order for the following reasons:

25 (1) mistake, inadvertence, surprise, or excusable neglect; (2) newly
26 discovered evidence which by due diligence could not have been
27 discovered in time to move for a new trial under Rule 59(b); (3) fraud
28 (whether heretofore denominated intrinsic or extrinsic),
misrepresentation, or other misconduct of an adverse party; (4) the
judgment is void; (5) the judgment has been satisfied, released, or
discharged, or a prior judgment upon which it is based has been

1 reversed or otherwise vacated, or it is no longer equitable that the
2 judgment should have prospective application; or (6) any other reason
justifying relief from the operation of the judgment.

3 Motions to reconsider are generally left to the discretion of the trial court. See *Combs v.*
4 *Nick Garin Trucking*, 825 F.2d 437, 441 (D.C. Cir. 1987). In order to succeed on a
5 motion to reconsider, a party must set forth facts or law of a strongly convincing nature
6 to induce the court to reverse its prior decision. See *Kern-Tulare Water Dist. v. City of*
7 *Bakersfield*, 634 F. Supp. 656, 665 (E.D. Cal. 1986), *aff'd in part and rev'd in part on*
8 *other grounds* 828 F.2d 514 (9th Cir. 1987). Rule 59(e) of the Federal Rules of Civil
9 Procedure provides that any “motion to alter or amend a judgment shall be filed no later
10 than 28 days after entry of the judgment.” Furthermore, a motion under Fed. R. Civ. P.
11 59(e) “should not be granted, absent highly unusual circumstances, unless the district
12 court is presented with newly discovered evidence, committed clear error, or if there is
13 an intervening change in the controlling law.” *Herbst v. Cook*, 260 F.3d 1039, 1044 (9th
14 Cir. 2001), *quoting McDowell v. Calderon*, 197 F.3d 1253, 1255 (9th Cir. 1999).

15 Here, Beasley dispatched his original petition for mailing on July 22, 2016 (see
16 ECF No. 1-1). On October 14, 2016, this court dismissed the petition as untimely and
17 noted that neither of the two grounds stated claims for which federal habeas relief may
18 be granted (ECF No. 4). However, Beasley filed an amended petition on October 13,
19 2016 (ECF No. 6). Essentially, the amended petition and the dismissal order “crossed”
20 and were filed contemporaneously. Beasley moves for reconsideration so that the court
21 may screen the amended petition pursuant to Habeas Rule 4. Good cause appearing,
22 Beasley’s motion shall be granted.

23 The court has reviewed the amended petition pursuant to Habeas Rule 4, and
24 Beasley shall have thirty days to show cause and file such proof to demonstrate that the
25 petition is timely. As the court stated in its previous order, the Antiterrorism and
26 Effective Death Penalty Act (AEDPA) imposes a one-year statute of limitations on the
27 filing of federal habeas corpus petitions. 28 U.S.C. § 2244(d). The one-year time
28 limitation can run from the date on which a petitioner’s judgment became final by

1 conclusion of direct review, or the expiration of the time for seeking direct review. 28
2 U.S.C. § 2244(d)(1)(A). Further, a properly filed petition for state postconviction relief
3 can toll the period of limitations. 28 U.S.C. § 2244(d)(2).

4 Beasley indicates on the face of the amended petition that his conviction was
5 affirmed in 2006 and that he did not file a state postconviction petition (ECF No. 6, p. 1).
6 A petitioner may be entitled to equitable tolling of the one-year limitations period if he
7 can establish that he diligently pursued his right and some extraordinary circumstance
8 stood in his way. See *Calderon v. United States District Court (Beeler)*, 128 F.3d 1283,
9 1288 (9th Cir. 1997), overruled in part on other grounds, *Calderon v. United States*
10 *District Court (Kelly)*, 163 F.3d 530 (9th Cir. 1998); *Pace v. DiGuglielmo*, 544 U.S. 408,
11 418 (2005).

12 The court notes that even assuming, *arguendo*, that Beasley can demonstrate
13 that he is entitled to equitable tolling, the claims that petitioner sets forth all appear to be
14 either not cognizable in federal habeas corpus or patently meritless. Ground 1 is a
15 claim that the state district court erred at Beasley's sentencing when it relied on a
16 presentencing report that contained an error (ECF No. 6, pp. 4-9). However, this is a
17 state-law question, and "federal habeas relief does not lie for errors of state law."
18 *Estelle v. McGuire*, 502 U.S. 62, 67 (1991) (internal quotations and citations omitted).
19 Ground 2 is a claim that the parole board relied in part on the incorrect presentencing
20 report when it denied him parole (ECF No. 6, p. 11-23). While the allegations in ground
21 2 may implicate Fourteenth Amendment due process, they do not sound in federal
22 habeas corpus. 42 U.S.C. § 1983; *Nettles v. Grounds*, 788 F.3d 992, 1001 (9th Cir.
23 2015) ("[R]elief is available to a prisoner under the federal habeas statute only if
24 success on the claim would 'necessarily spell speedier release' from custody.").
25 Ground 3 is a claim that his three concurrent sentences of life in prison with parole
26 eligibility after ten years under NRS 200.366(2)(b) (the version of 200.366 that was in
27 effect at the relevant time) for sexual assault without substantial bodily harm must be
28

1 set aside because the statute is vague and unconstitutional (ECF No. 6, pp. 25-.
2 Beasley appears to mainly complain that one of the possible penalties under NRS
3 200.366(2)(a) for sexual assault with substantial bodily harm was a term of forty years
4 with parole eligibility after fifteen years. In other words, he claims that in reality he was
5 convicted of the greater crime of sexual assault with substantial bodily harm. This claim
6 is patently meritless and frivolous.

7 As to the threshold issue of timeliness, the petitioner will be given the opportunity
8 to show that either the instant petition was not filed beyond the one-year statute of
9 limitations, or that he is entitled to equitable tolling of the time limitation.

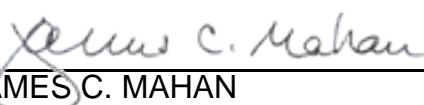
10 **IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that petitioner's motion for relief under FRCP
11 60(b) (ECF No. 8) is **GRANTED**. The Clerk shall reopen this case in accordance with
12 this order.

13 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that petitioner shall have **thirty (30) days** from the
14 date of entry of this order to show cause and file such proof he may have to
15 demonstrate that the petition for writ of habeas corpus was timely filed within the one-
16 year time limitation or that he is entitled to equitable tolling of the time period. He shall
17 also set forth a complete and accurate history, with dates, of any state postconviction
18 proceedings presented to the state district court and the Nevada Supreme Court,
19 including direct appeal and state habeas petitions.

20 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that if petitioner files such proof, respondents shall
21 have **twenty (20) days** to file any response to petitioner's proof.

22 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that if petitioner is unable to demonstrate that the
23 petition for writ of habeas corpus was filed within the limitations period or that he is
24 entitled to equitable tolling, the court will enter an order dismissing the petition.

25 DATED: 22 June 2017.
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28 JAMES C. MAHAN
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE